

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an exhaust gas containing a fluorine compound, said method comprising:

heating the exhaust gas in the presence of O₂ without adding H₂O and/or H₂ to the exhaust gas while passing the exhaust gas through a detour path formed by plural plate members;
and

then adding H₂O to the exhaust gas to decompose or oxidize the fluorine compound.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 1, wherein the fluorine compound is decomposed or oxidized in the presence of a catalyst after H₂O is added to the exhaust gas.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 1, further comprising:

before said heating, removing at least one of a powdery component, a water-soluble component, and a hydrolytic component from the exhaust gas.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 1, further comprising:

after the fluorine compound is decomposed or oxidized, removing an acid gas, which is produced when the fluorine compound is decomposed, from the exhaust gas.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an exhaust gas containing a fluorine compound, said method comprising:

heating the exhaust gas in the presence of O₂ without adding H₂O and/or H₂ to the exhaust gas while passing the exhaust gas through a detour path formed by plural plate members;
and

then adding H₂ to the exhaust gas to decompose or oxidize the fluorine compound.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 5, wherein the fluorine compound is decomposed or oxidized in the presence of a catalyst after H₂ is added to the exhaust gas.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 5, further comprising:

before said heating, removing at least one of a powdery component, a water-soluble component, and a hydrolytic component from the exhaust gas.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of treating an exhaust gas according to claim 5, further comprising:

after the fluorine compound is decomposed or oxidized, removing an acid gas, which is produced when the fluorine compound is decomposed, from the exhaust gas.

9-14. (Withdrawn)

15-16. (Cancelled)